ALLEN A. M. E. CHAPEL

Will Make Extensive Improvements on Church at Third and Wilson Streets.

T. H. Evening Gazette
Mon January 13, 1902

The members of Allen A. M. E. chapel at the corner of Third and Wilson streets are preparing extensive improvements to the church building and the plans have already been prepared by J. W. Henson. The plans show a beautiful structure of which the colored residents of the city may justly be proud.

The proposed new church will present a very different appearance from the building now occupied. A tower will be built on the southeast corner of the building and the main entrance to the church will be at the foot of the tower. A small one door entrance will be placed in the Third street end of the church. A hall will be built where the choir stall now stands. The improvements will be of red brick and will be made over the old structure which is still very solid. It is estimated that the cost will be about $2,500 and of this $1,000 will be paid out of the bequest of the late Delos W. Minshall. The old Vigo county court house bell which has not been used for some time by the church because of the insecurity of the tower will be placed in the new tower. It was loaned to the church some time ago by the county. The state conference of the church will be held here next September and it is expected that the improvements will be finished by that time. The congregation of the church was organized in 1830 and the present building was built in 1870. It was the first colored church of the city.

Community Affairs File

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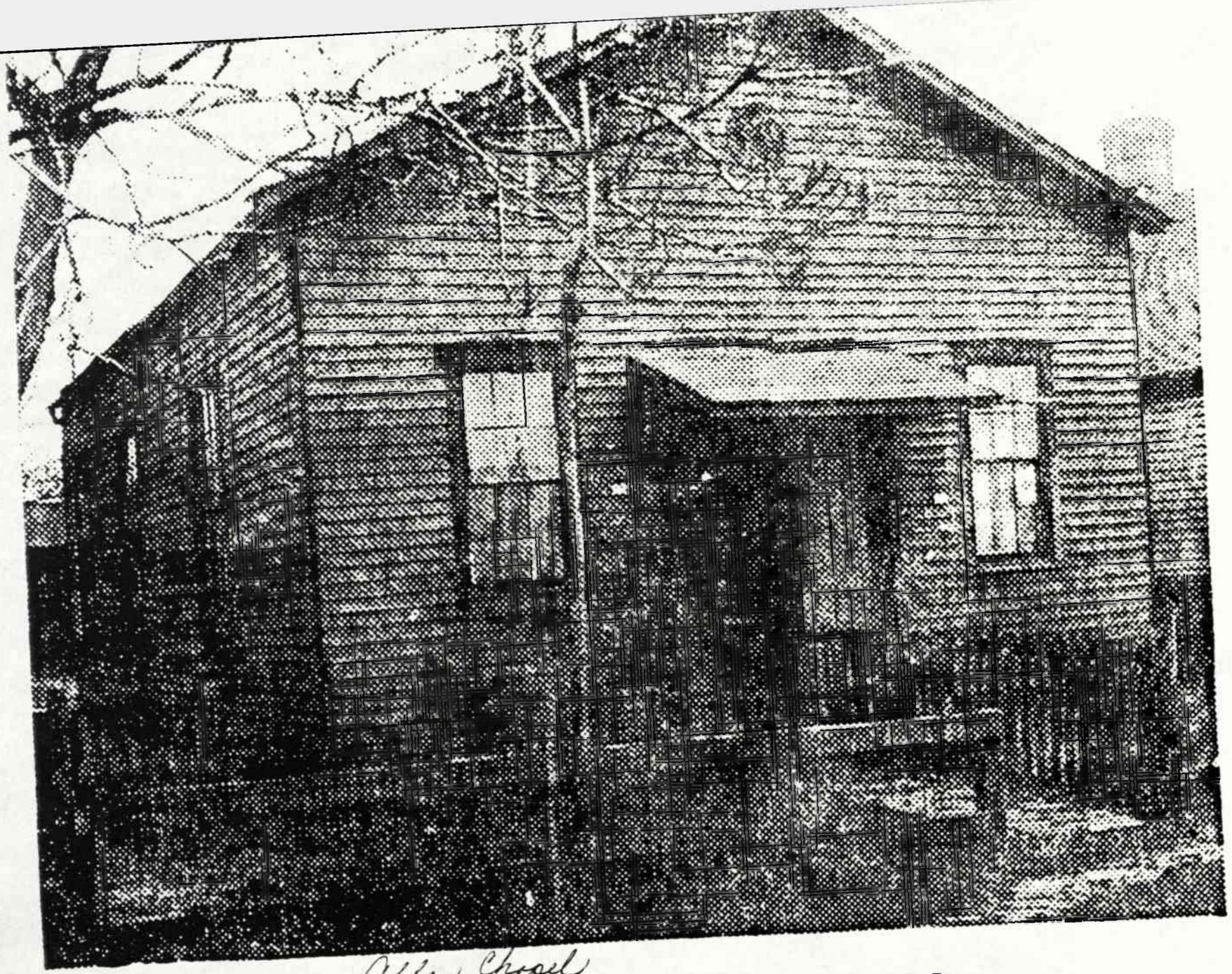

Allen Chapel

Church Organized—June, 1839

717 First St.

Allen Chapel Meth.

Church (WV)

T. H. church added to national register

Sullivan Daily Times 9-19-75

Allen Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Third and Crawford Streets, Terre Haute, has been added to the National Register of Historic Places of the National Park Service.

Being included in the register makes the Chapel eligible for federal funds for restoration projects.

Mrs. Audrey Acton Graham, R1, Merom, a member of the congregation, prepared and submitted the application for admission to the register on behalf of the Chapel in November 1974.

The 137-year-old church is the oldest Black church in Terre Haute. It was also the first Black school in that city. Parents paid a tuition of 25 cents a week per student, and a Black teacher instructed those who attended.

Sullivan barber Jethro Bass and members of his family were among the church's first congregation of five. His descendants have been included in the chapel's membership throughout its entire history.

The chapel was a stop on the Underground Railroad during the Civil War era. Later it housed immigrants from the Carolinas in the church basement until they could find proper shelter in Terre Haute. Black publisher and abolitionist Frederick Douglass spoke in the chapel in 1868.

Allen Chapel's first pastor was the Rev. William Paul Quinn who preached his first meeting in the church and later became a bishop.

Another pastor at Allen Chapel was Hiram Revels. Revels later preached in Mississippi and after the Civil War became the first Black to be elected to the United States Senate.

The first Black public school teacher in Terre Haute and the first Black high school graduate were members of the congregation.

Howard Wooden, former director of the Swope Art Gallery, inspected the building and submitted an architectural appraisal of proposed renovations, repairs, and redecorations with the application to be included in the register.

The total cost of those projects has been estimated at $40,000.

Financial aid for the preservation of the building may now be sought through the National Endowment for the Arts or the National Endowment for the humanities. Application for such funds must be made through the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior.

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Vigo County Public Library

Bicentennial program at Allen Chapel

Sullivan Daily Times 5-28-76 Churches, T. H.

Dr. J. Solomon Benn III, pastor of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Cathedral and director of the Human Resource Development Center, accompanied by the Bethel choir, will be the featured speaker at the Bicentennial Celebration Program at Allen Chapel in Terre Haute on Sunday at 3:00 p.m.

Dr. Benn, who is chairman of the Indiana A.M.E. Archives, will present a special commemorative scroll awarded Allen Chapel at the Bishops' and Connectional Council Meeting held earlier this year at Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church in Philadelphia to the Rev. Jimmie Trammer, pastor of Allen Chapel.

The First Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church has compiled a journal of A.M.E. churches that are over one hundred years old as a Bicentennial project.

During the centennial celebration, no mention was made of the contributions of Black people in the life and struggles of our nation. Some present-day civic leaders did not want this over-sight to happen again. Therefore, the history and contributions of the African Methodist Episcopal denomination, which dates back to 1787, were chosen to be recorded.

Allen Chapel at Third and Crawford Streets in Terre Haute, a church of this denomination, was formally organized in 1837 by the Rev. William Paul Quinn. One of the founding families of Allen Chapel was the Jethro Bass family of Sullivan, and members of the Bass family have held continuous membership.

Two direct descendants of Jethro Bass will also participate in the Bicentennial program. They are Mrs. Marybelle Shackelford of Tere Haute and Arthur L. Russell, who is assigned to the Office of the Secretary, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. on special duty with the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration as a supervisory correspondence analyst. The former will present a piano interlude and the latter will present an official Bicentennial flag to Glenn Graham, Merom, president of the Allen Chapel Restoration Committee.

The Bicentennial program at Allen Chapel will formally recognize the effort to restore Allen Chapel as a historical landmark. Restoration of Allen Chapel, which was placed on the National Register as of Sept. 5, 1975, is listed in A.R.B.A. publications throughout the world. National and state historical and preservation groups have also recognized the restoration of Allen Chapel. The restoration is unique in that it has been entirely conceived and executed at the lay level.

The Sullivan County Garden Club will have their second annual Flower Show at Allen Chapel at the same time. Both affairs are a part of the Bicentennial Banks of the Wabash Festival, a multi-ethnic festival. Audrey Acton Graham, church historian and Banks of the Wabash Festival board member, is general chairman of the program.

A reception will be held immediately following the Bicentennial dedication program in Fellowship Hall.

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Allen Chapel Methodist

Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church

Allen Chapel

Churches (WV)

Birthplace of black politics

Allen Chapel celebrating 150th

Ts JUN 1 1 1987

By David Delaney
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

Allen Chapel of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, which will celebrate its sesquicentennial Saturday through June 21, has been part of the Terre Haute community since the days of slavery.

Special events are scheduled for each evening during the 150-year celebration, which has taken "We've come this far by faith" as its theme.

"At one time, Allen Chapel was a stop on the Underground Railroad," said 77-year-old Isabelle Martin, a life-long member of the church. "Slaves were quartered in the basement of the old church."

Named after Richard Allen, who was the first bishop of the AME church, Allen Chapel remains on its original spot at the corner of Third and Crawford streets.

Allen was also the first black U.S. senator, taking the seat once occupied by Jefferson Davis.

Allen Chapel has long been associated with Terre Haute's black history. The first black teacher and first black high-school graduates were members. Rhea L. Graham, a member until just a few years ago, is the first black geology graduate of Bryn Mawr College.

Famous people who have spoken to the membership of Allen Chapel, which was founded in 1837, include abolitionist Frederick Douglass in 1868, Eugene V. Debs in the early 20th century and Jackie Robinson — who in 1947 broke the color line in major-league baseball in the modern era — in 1956.

"Membership in our church is down quite a bit," said Martin, general chairman of the sesquicentennial. The oldest black church in western Indiana now has fewer than 100 members, and only about 30 regularly attend Sunday services.

Martin credits the downturn in church membership to urban redevelopment that forced many members to leave the area and a lack of bus service on Sundays to bring those who have moved away to services.

However, Martin said, "There's still a lot of pride in this old church."

Right now, the church board is looking into the possibility of building a new church in another neighborhood.

"If we do move," she said, "I hope they make the present church into a museum."

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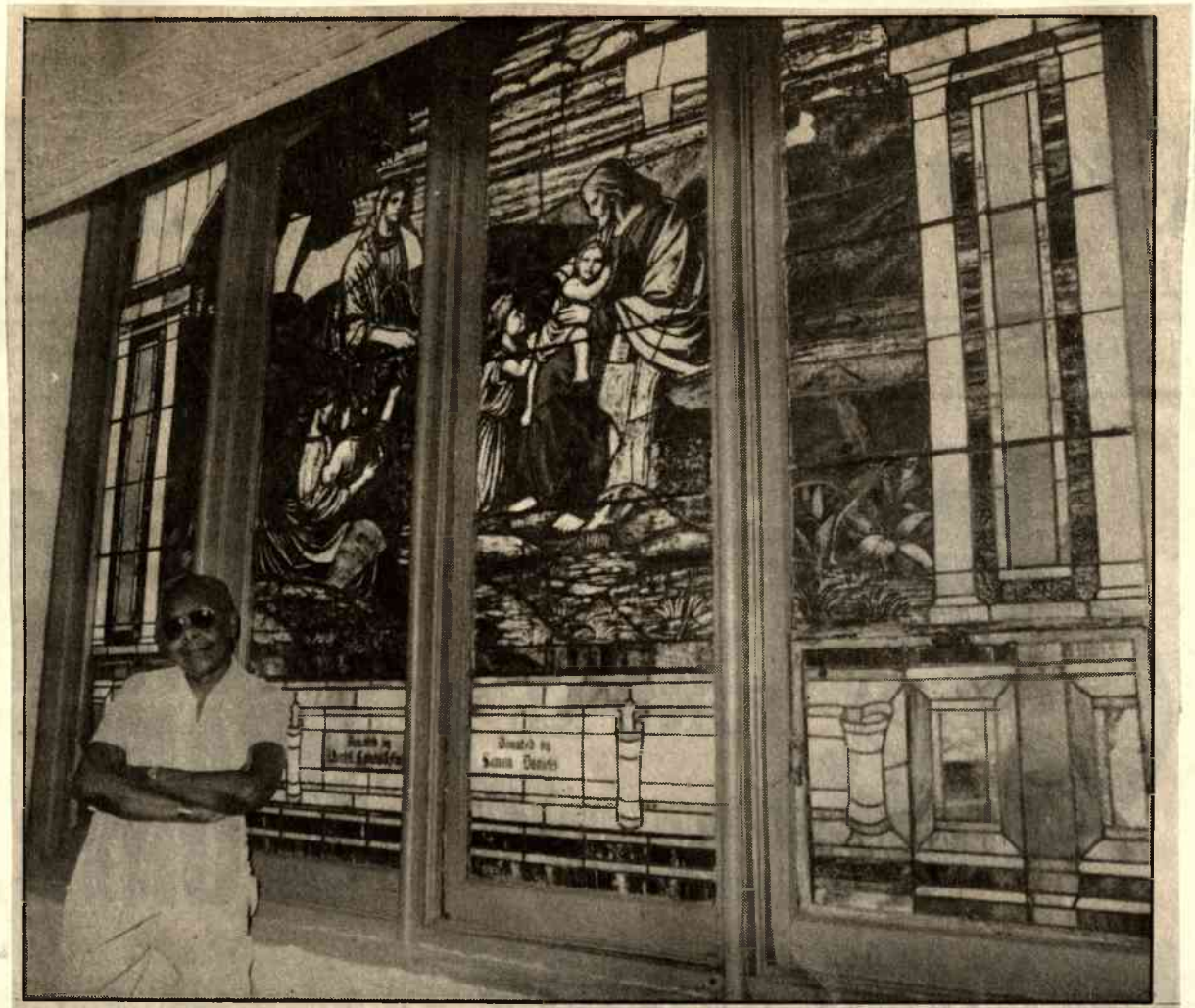


Tribune-Star/Jim Avelis

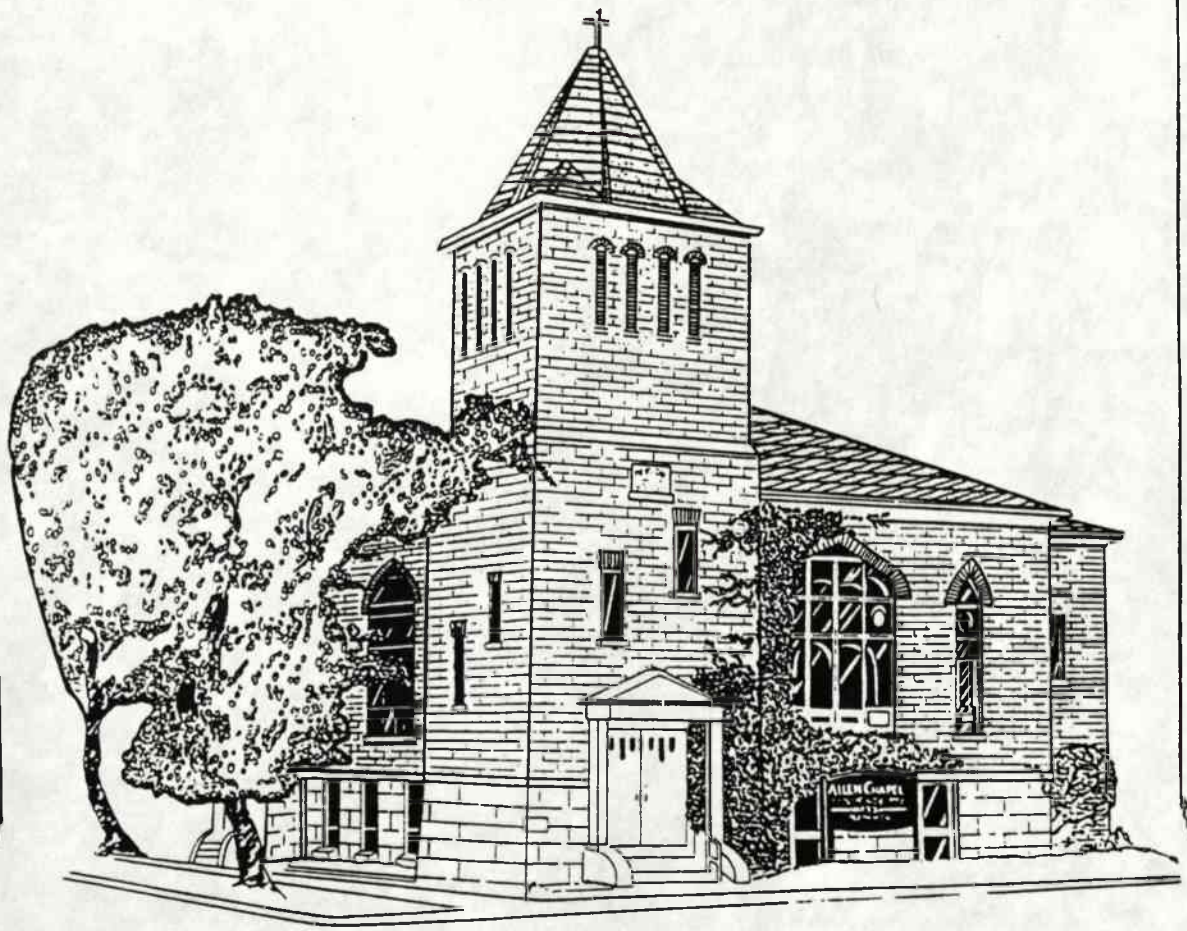
Isabelle Martin: "Still a lot of pride in this old church."

Churches (W.V.)

Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church

Third and Crawford Streets
Terre Haute, In.

Since 1837



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State of Indiana

Indiana General Assembly

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 55

Offered by Representatives:

R. Jerome Kearns, John R. Gregg, Vern Tincher, Charlie Brown, Earl L. Harris, William A. Crawford, Joseph W. Summers, F. Dale Grubb, Vernon G. Smith, Hurley C. Goodall

Sponsored by Senators:

Edward A. Pease, Robert F. Hellmann, Maurice E. Doll, Earline S. Rogers, Billie J. Breaux

A HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION recognizing Reverend Hiram Revels, a black minister from Terre Haute who became a United States Senator from Mississippi.

WHEREAS, We celebrate February as Black History Month, focusing on some of the achievements and contributions of black people to American society; and

WHEREAS, Allen Chapel in Terre Haute, founded in 1837, the oldest black church in western Indiana, was an underground railroad station before the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Hiram Revels, a former Allen Chapel pastor, organized and instructed the first school for blacks in Vigo County, holding classes in Allen Chapel for a weekly fee of 25 cents per pupil; and

WHEREAS, after the Civil War, Reverend Revels became the first black person elected to the United States Senate, replacing Jefferson Davis as senator from Mississippi.

Now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF INDIANA, THE SENATE CONCURRING:

SECTION 1. That we recognize the contributions of Reverend Hiram Revels, minister, educator, and first black person elected to the United States Senate.

SECTION 2. That we commend to all Hoosiers that they remember the achievements of Reverend Revels and other black people and recognize their contributions to American society.

SECTION 3. That copies of this Resolution be sent to Theresa Bynum and to the Indiana and Terre Haute Presidents of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

R. JEROME KEARNS
State Representative

JOHN R. GREGG
State Representative

VERN TINCHER
State Representative

CHARLIE BROWN
State Representative

EARL L. HARRIS
State Representative

WILLIAM A. CRAWFORD
State Representative

JOSEPH W. SUMMERS
State Representative

F. DALE GRUBB
State Representative

VERNON G. SMITH
State Representative

HURLEY C. GOODALL
State Representative

EDWARD A. PEASE
State Senator

ROBERT F. HELLMANN
State Senator

MAURICE E. DOLL
State Senator

EARLINE S. ROGERS
State Senator

BILLIE J. BREAUX
State Senator

MICHAEL K. PHILLIPS
Speaker

BETTY L. MASARIU
Principal Clerk

ADOPTED BY THE 107th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Following the trail of Richard Allen

THE ALLEN CHAPEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The African Methodist Episcopal Church was established by Richard Allen (1760-1831) in 1787 when whites at a church he attended in Philadelphia objected to worshipping with blacks. Allen, with the other black people in that congregation, began meeting at his blacksmith's shop near Independence Hall, where he became the first Bishop of the denomination established there.

Allen was also responsible for organizing a group of 2000 blacks who worked continuously for 48 hours building and strengthening barricades that prevented the British sacking of Philadelphia on their march to Washington during The War of 1812.

Allen Chapel, the oldest black church in Western Indiana, was established by Rev. William Paul Quinn (1800-1873) who was born in Calcutta, India. After being converted by a Quaker missionary, he was disowned by his family and left India for America. Quinn became part of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and was sent west to Indiana. He was a missionary in the local area before founding Allen Chapel, in a double frame house on South First Street near Sheets Street (now Crawford) in 1837, and later became a Bishop in the church.

The Jethro Bass family, "free persons" from North Carolina, were a prominent family in the local church from its inception. Members of the Bass family served as Revolutionary War soldiers and are recorded in the first federal census as "free people with slaves of their own".

In 1870 the congregation erected a building at Third and Crawford that was described as "Lombard Italienate style of some architectual distinction". During a tornado in 1913 that damaged much of the south side of Terre Haute, lighting struck the church with the resulting fire doing irreparable damage.

While a new facility was being constructed, the congregation continued to meet in a tent across Crawford Street on property belonging to Charles T. Hyte. Strong commitment to attending church was not unusual and some members were known to walk miles during the night, by the light of hickory torches, to arrive in time for Sunday morning services.

The new building literally rose from the ashes. The present building was built on the foundation of the former and in fact, evidence of the fire can still be seen on some of the fine oak pews.

The same plan was followed, but the exterior was altered by the Terre Haute architect J. W. Hensen to the then popular Gothic style. Double wide Tudor stained glass windows with wooden

tracery were added on the east and south facade and high stone courses were added to the foundation of the yellow-brick edifice. The main tower on the southeast corner was somewhat changed with a slightly higher pyramidal broached spire in place of the simpler pyramidal spire.

The interior has a wide sanctuary with the apse and altar located on the north wall. To the right, is a staircase to the balcony that stretches along the east and south walls. The ceiling is of tin with a classical design. The church houses the oldest "Verney" tracker action pipe organ in Terre Haute.

The main tower of the church is said to hold the original Vigo County Courthouse Bell (not to be confused with the Vigo Bell, given in part by funds received from the Francis Vigo estate and currently hanging in the county's courthouse).

The Allen Chapel was an early and major stop on the Underground Railroad through Evansville, Terre Haute, Lafayette and South Bend. The escaped slaves who were sheltered and fed in the house on South First were eventually smuggled on lumber boats to Canada. The Northwest Territory states were non-slave by law, however, the law was sometimes circumvented and blacks were made indentured servants for a period of 99 years.

There were also many who would return escaped slaves for profit or even kidnap free slaves to sell in the South. Pierre Gibault

of Vincennes, George Rogers Clark, General Harrison and Zachary Taylor when at Fort Harrison all had slaves. The church also housed and fed black immigrants from North Carolina when they were fleeing persecution during the reconstruction period.

The Allen Chapel was the center of life for local blacks. Two prominent speakers who have addressed congregations are Frederick Douglas and Eugene V. Debs. The church housed the first black school in Terre Haute and had the first black public high school graduate in 1870. The first black public school teacher in the area in 1880 was a product of Allen Chapel. As early as 1880 the church Women's Literary Society was debating women's rights and capital punishment.

Perhaps one of the most notable achievements of a member was that of a former pastor of Allen Chapel. Rev Hiram Revels was the first black elected to the United States Senate. Revels replaced Jefferson Davis when he resigned his seat to lead the confederacy.

On September 5, 1975, Allen Chapel was put on The National Register of Historical Places. It was one of 12 Indiana sites to receive renovation funds in conjunction with this status and the bicentennial celebration. Allen Chapel is still a very active church.

THE HISTORY OF ALLEN CHAPEL A. M. E. CHURCH

OF TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

1. ALLEN CHAPEL - original church building was an early station on the Underground Railroad.

2. ALLEN CHAPEL - was organized (1837) by Rev. Wm. Paul Quinn who became bishop and held his first official meeting at Allen Chapel (1844).

3. ALLEN CHAPEL - is the oldest African American church in Vigo County and western Indiana (1837)

4. ALLEN CHAPEL - houses the Bell from the first Vigo County Court House (1819)

5. ALLEN CHAPEL'S - former pastor, Rev. Hiram Revels, was first African American elected United States Senator (elected from Mississippi)

6. ALLEN CHAPEL - housed first black school in Terre Haute (taught by pastor, Rev. Hiram Revels)

7. ALLEN CHAPEL - hosted many historical/cultural events:
   A. Frederick Douglass - abolitionist, civic leader (1868)
   B. Hallie Quinn Brown - Elocutionist (1880)

   C. Church Literary Society debated Women's Rights and Capital Punishment (1870)

   D. Jackie Robinson - civic leader, baseball player (1956)

8. ALLEN CHAPEL - trustee, Mr. Z.M. Anderson, was the first black public school teacher in Terre Haute (1870)

9. ALLEN CHAPEL - member, Miss Charlotte Blake, was Terre Haute's first black high school graduate (1880)

10. ALLEN CHAPEL - houses the only tracker action pipe organ left in Terre Haute (1905, Herney Pipe Organ, Mason City, Iowa).

11. ALLEN CHAPEL - housed and fed migrants from North Carolina until they could find proper shelter.

12. ALLEN CHAPEL - member, Miss Rhea L. Graham, was the first black in the United States to enter the field of oceanography (1974)

13. ALLEN CHAPEL - was read into the State of Indiana's Congressional Records by the Indiana General Assembly recognizing its former pastor, Hiram Revels, via House Concurrent Resolution 55 (February 1991)

Vigo County Public Library Community Affairs File

Churches (Terre H.) Meth. Allen Chapel

REFERENCE DO NOT CIRCULATE

Sp AUG 1 4 1976

Allen Chapel is landmark for local Black community

by Frances E. Hughes

Even before the Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church, northwest corner of Third and Crawford streets, was added to the National Register of Historic Places of the National Park Service Sept. 5, 1975, the 45 members of the church had been working hard for months to clean up and repair the church.

The 139-year-old building was in the first Urban Redevelopment Area but was exempt from sale. Before so many houses were torn down in the area, the church had a membership of 200, but so many parishioners moved to other areas that the membership declined.

However, the remaining members, taking pride in their historic church of Victorian architecture and knowing that acceptance as one of the historic places would also bring them funds for restoration of their building, started to bring the church back to the beauty it had had before.

The congregation installed a gas furnace, replaced the roof with help of the labor unions, put plexiglass on the outside of all the stained glass windows to preserve them, cleaned and painted the interior of the building and refinished the pews.

Most of this work was done both financially and physically by the parishioners with the help of some personal donations.

Now, the church has been granted a matching grant by the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration for refurbishing the bell tower and putting new guttering on the building. The bell in that tower was from the first Vigo County Court House, built in 1819.

One of the projects to raise money for the matching grant is the sale of the "Old Time Cook Book," which women of the church had printed. The cover of the book features a drawing of the Allen Chapel as it appeared in 1870.

It is the hope of members of the church that when these repairs are done, it will be possible to tuck point the bricks on the exterior, and redo the electricity and plumbing in the building.

Open house was held at the church Friday, July 9, when the lovely old building was open to the public for inspection.

There are many interesting historical facts about this church.

This was the first Black church in Vigo County and western Indiana and for many years the only church for Blacks in this area.

In 1800, there were only 28 Blacks in Indiana as most of the slaves did not come to Indiana until after 1820. As part of the Underground Railroad, the Allen Chapel Church, then a small building on South First Street, was one of the stations where slaves were hidden and assisted as they escaped from the South. Free Blacks helped smuggle them through from the South to freedom. They fed and clothed them, hid them by day and conducted them North through the night.

There were three main lines of the Underground Railroad crossing Indiana. The western one crossed the Ohio River at or near Evansville and passed through Princeton, Terre Haute, Lafayette and South Bend. When the slaves reached the state of Michigan, they were smuggled aboard lumber boats and carried to Canada.

It is believed that as many as 2,000 came through Indiana each year from 1830 to 1850.

The local Blacks who smuggled slaves through were endangering their own lives. The first Abolitionist Society, organized in 1836, and the Fugitive Slave Law, passed in 1850, stated that anyone who harbored a slave or prevented masters from capturing their slaves could be fined up to $1,000 and imprisoned for six months for each fugitive involved and the fugitive slaves were to be denied a jury trial.

The law also permitted slave owners the right to organize posses to pursue and capture runaways.

In 1850, there were 227 Blacks in Terre Haute, many having come by the Underground Railroad.

Allen Chapel **Photo by Carolyn Morgan**

The 1851 state legislature included in its constitution a provision that no Black or Mulatto could come into the state after the adoption of the constitution. After that, there was much kidnapping of Blacks who were taken South and sold.

At the close of the Civil War in 1865, there were reportedly 10,000 Blacks in Indiana. However, the Black did not get the vote in this state until 1881, although the Indiana Territory became a state in 1816.

The Allen Chapel church was started in 1837 by the Rev. William Paul Quinn, one of the early bishops of the African Methodist Church, who was known as "The Father of the A.M.E. Church of This Section." First members were Jethro Bass and his wife, Polly; their son, Nelson Bass, and his wife, Nancy; William and Mary E. Johnson and Juda Florence.

The Reverend Quinn was a circuit riding preacher, preaching in isolated communities as well as at local churches when he founded the local church. He was born in Calcutta, India, about 1800, and was converted to the Christian religion by the preaching of a Quaker missionary, was disowned by his family and ostracized.

Making his way to the United States, he was united with the A.M.E. Church and was licensed to preach. As a missionary, he was sent West and was so successful in organizing churches that he was made a bishop in 1844. He died in 1873.

The Blacks were so interested in attending services at the church that they would walk three or four miles at night, carrying hickory torches to light their way. The ministers of the churches also sometimes walked all the way from Richmond to Terre Haute to preach here. They received only $1.25 for each service.

The first church of Allen Chapel was a small frame building on South First Street near Sheets Street (now Crawford Street).

There was no provision for education of the Blacks when the church was started as Black children did not attend public schools here until 1869. So the first Black school in Terre Haute was started at Allen Chapel with the pastor as the teacher. The pastor at that time was the Rev. Hiram Revels. Parents paid 25 cents per pupil per week for the schooling. The Reverend Revels was later the first Black elected United States Senator. He was elected from Mississippi.

Sp AUG 1 4 1976

From 1820 to 1850, many free Blacks, especially from Virginia and North Carolina, settled in Indiana. Fertile land could be bought for as little as $1.25 per acre from the government and there was plenty of work in the state on public improvement projects and in the forests. Wages were considered good. These Blacks usually established homes in or near Quaker settlements as the Quakers did not believe in slavery.

Thus, many of these Blacks became independent freeholders, according to "The Negro in the History of Indiana," published by John W. Lida in 1953. Lida taught in the Terre Haute public schools a number of years and also served as a critic teacher at Indiana State University.

Also, some white owners brought their slaves to the state, where they set them free and helped them buy land and be self-supporting free holders and independent men.

When the free Blacks from North Carolina came here during the Reconstruction period because of persecution in their own state, they could not find homes here. The basement of the Allen Chapel Church was opened to them until they could find or build houses in which to live. They were both housed and fed at the church.

The present brick church was erected in 1870. In 1913, the church was struck by lightning during the tornado which caused much destruction in Terre Haute. It partially burned then and for awhile, church services were held in a tent across the street from the church on a lot owned by Charles T. Hyte, then principal of Washington School. The church was rebuilt as soon as enough money was collected by the parishioners.

Some of the scars from this fire may still be found in the church, especially on some of the fine oak pews. The church is now practically restored to its original beauty. A piano is used for services but soon the only tracter action pipe organ left in Terre Haute, which was built in 1905 by the Herney Pipe Organ Company of Mason City, Iowa, will again be operable. The bellows now needs repair.

There have been other historical facts about the church and its congregation over the years.

The first Terre Haute Black public school teacher, Z. M. Anderson, was a trustee of Allen Chapel in 1870; the first Terre Haute Black high school graduate, Charlotte Blake, was a member of the church in 1880; the first Black in the United States to enter the field of oceanography, Miss Rhea L. Graham, is now a member.

Among the outstanding programs that have been presented at the church are a talk by Frederick Douglas, abolitionist and civic leader, in 1868; a talk by Hallie Quinn Brown, elocutionist, in 1880; a debate about "Women's Rights" and "Capital Punishment," by the Church Literary Society in 1870, and a talk by Jackie Robinson, civic leader, in 1956.

The present minister of the church is the Rev. Jimmie Trammer.

Don't let the working world freeze you out! Bask in the warmth of a technical skill by coming inside Ivy Tech-Terre Haute for the winter and stay as long as you like. Fall registration is now open for classes beginning Tuesday, September 7, 1976.

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* Computer Programming Technology
* Credit & Finance Technology
* Electronics Communication Technology
* Electronics Technology
* Medical Assistant
* Practical Nursing
* Printing Technology
* Radio-Television Technology
* Secretarial-Administrative
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For further information on programs, financial aid and counseling, contact the Office of Student Services, 299-1121, ext. 2

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Churches (W)
Allen Chapel
Meth.

Church women observe World Community Day

Churches (T.H) T NOV 2 1977

World Community Day will be observed Friday at the Allen Chapel AME Church by the Vigo County Church Women United in Terre Haute.

This year's theme, "Heart Change — Global Change," focuses on "reaching out with changed hearts to the unfree people throughout the community, nation and world to strive for unity and world peace."

Throughout the year, and especially on World Community Day, church women purchase gift certificates for material aid to people who are in need of relief from poverty, natural disaster and hunger in the United States and throughout the world. These certificates, along with World Community Day offerings, support the ongoing work of the Intercontinental Mission.

By funding self-help and development programs through the mission, the Church Women United foster global change.

Scheduled activities include a social hour at 12:30 p.m, followed by a service at 1:30 p.m. Music will be presented by the Nota Belles of the Woman's Department Club.

Officers for the 1978-79 year will be elected during a brief business meeting conducted by Geraldine Bradford, president. A short musical program will be presented by the Rev. Raymond Floyd, pastor of Allen Chapel, and Mrs. Floyd.

Greg Storey, local meteorologist, will present the afternoon program.

Mrs. Fred L. Fuson will lead the worship service. Others participating include Mrs. Arch Dunbar, Mrs. Jerome Martin, Mrs. Eugene Boles, Lois Beauchamp, Sylvia Clark, Mrs. James Martin, Mrs. Robert G. Rogers, Mrs. Joe Manson and Jo Sudbrink.

Mrs. Sudbrink is in charge of registration and name tags.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

Churches W
Allen Chapel
Meth.

S MAY 26 1976

Allen Chapel To Receive Document

Churches (T.H.)
Community Affairs File.

A special commemorative document will be presented to the historic Allen Chapel on South Third Street during the Banks-of-the-Wabash Festival May 29 through June 6, according to an announcement from the Festival office.

Presentation will be made at 3 p.m. Sunday during the Bicentennial dedication ceremony in the Chapel by Dr. J. Solomon Benn III, pastor of Bethel A.M.E. Cathedral and director of the Human Resources Development Center, Indianapolis. He will be the featured speaker.

This document was awarded earlier this year during the Bishops' and Connectional Council meeting at the Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church, Philadelphia, Pa., to the Rev. Jimmie Trammer, Chapel pastor.

Allen Chapel was organized formally in 1837 by the Rev. William Paul Quinn. The First Episcopal District of the A.M.E. Church has compiled a journal of A.M.E. churches more than 100 years old as a bicentennial project. This journal records the history and contributions of the denomination which dates back to 1787.

Vigo County Public Library
Community Affairs File
REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Churches (AME)

Allen Chapel Listed Among Historic Sites

AUG 9 1979

The second volume of the "National Register of Historic Places" has been published by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, according to an announcement from the office of Cecil D. Andrus. U.S. Secretary of the Interior.

Included in the new volume is the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Indianapolis. Other Indiana properties included in the volume from the area are East College, DePauw University, Greencastle; Merom Site and Fort Azatlan, Merom, and Terre Haute's Allen Chapel of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Third and Crawford streets.

The "National Register of Historic Places" is the nation's official list of properties of historic and cultural value worthy of preservation. It describes publicly and privately owned districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology and culture.

Listing in the National Register qualifies properties for certain benefits including matching funds from HCRS for preservation, rehabilitation, acquisition and development through state programs, and tax advantages for owners who rehabilitate historic income-producing property.

Volume II of the National Register completes the bicentennial edition designed as a guide to historic preservation. Volume I, published in 1978, describes about 9,500 properties placed on the National Register from its creation in 1966 through 1974. Volume II adds nearly 5,000 properties included on the National Register during 1975-76.

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Churches WV
Allen Chapel, Meth

Community Affairs File Churches, T-H

Allen Chapel group elects Handley

T AUG 15 1978

Leonard Handley was elected to succeed James C. Rutledge as treasurer of the Allen Chapel Restoration Committee, according to an announcement by Glenn Graham, president of the group.

The committee was organized to restore Allen Chapel, Third and Crawford streets, as a historical structure. The bell from the first Vigo County Courthouse is stored there and it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Some restoration has already started on the chapel.

Handley, a native of Alabama, was educated in Terre Haute schools and is employed at Anaconda Aluminum Co. He and his wife, Cynthia, have three daughters.

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Churches (W)
Allen Chapel
Meth.

Churches (W)

Allen Chapel now in National Register

AUG 9 1979

Terre Haute's Allen Chapel of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Third and Crawford streets, is included in the second volume of the "National Register of Historic Places," published by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

According to an announcement from the office of Cecil D. Andrus, U.S. Secretary of the Interior, other Indiana properties included in the volume from the area are: East College, DePauw University, Greencastle; Merom Site, and Fort Azatlan, Merom; and the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

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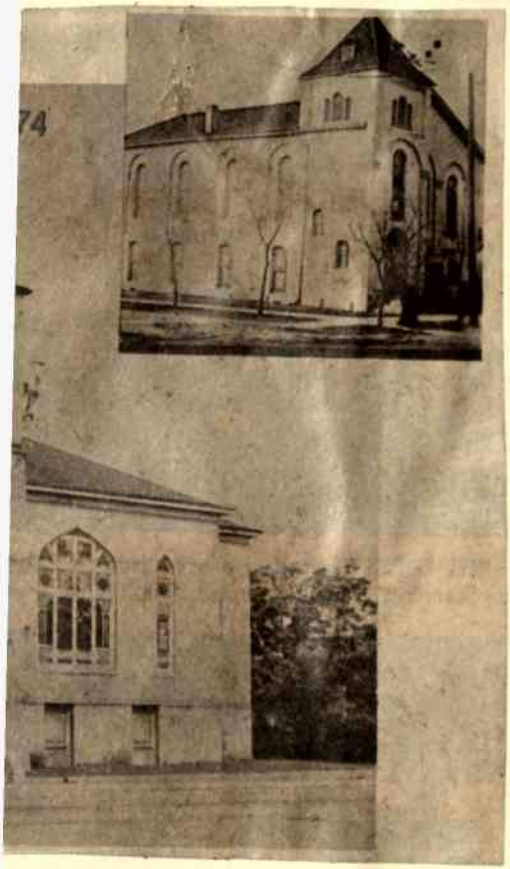

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Community Affairs File

Art Object of the Week

Churches (T. H.)

Community Affairs File
Ts SEP 1 1974

ART OBJECT OF THE WEEK

While the Sheldon Swope Art Gallery is closed for summer renovation Art Objects of the Week feature important examples of Terre Haute architecture of the 19th and early 20th centuries.

ALLEN CHAPEL

Institutionally, Allen Chapel was founded in 1837 in a double frame house on South First Street. In 1870, it was moved to the northwest corner of Third and Crawford Streets where the building erected was designed in a Lombard Italianate manner (see insert), with round-headed recessed windows, a short pyramidally roofed tower and Italianate cornice moldings. During the 1913 tornado lightning struck the church causing fire and irreparable damage. As a result, a complete rebuilding on the original foundations was undertaken and the present church constructed of yellow brick with high stone courses at the ground level. J. W. Hensen of Terre Haute was the architect. Although the general plan was retained, the style was clearly altered. Hensen turned to a free version of the then popular Gothic idiom, introducing two wide Tudor windows, one on the south side and one on the east facade. Both windows contain wooden tracery with stained glass. In addition, a number of smaller rectangular stained glass windows with geometric patterns, stylize floral motifs and dedicatory memorial plaques are found at various locations throughout the church. A short tower is located at the rear of the building on the southeast corner. The main tower, however, stands on a heavy stone pylon base at the southeast corner and is capped by a low pyramidal broach spire. Four closely grouped and round headed slit windows appear in each face of the upper register of the tower, an arrangement somewhat similar to that of the original building. Entrance to the church is gained through the doors of either tower. The interor is completely unpretentious and contains a small but wide rectangular auditorium with apse and altar on the north wall. A balcony, approached by a staircase immediately to the right of the altar, runs along the east, south and west walls. Metal sheeting of a type commonly used in the late 19th and early 20th centuries but now rarely seen is applied to the ceiling and is decorated with impressed classical decoratve motifs. Today the church is sadly in need of repair. Yet it stands as a significantly important monument in the life of Terre Haute and carries the distinction, first of being the oldest Black church in the city and second of being an affiliate of the oldest Black ecclesiastical organization in the United States. It was founded by Richard Allen (1760-1831), the organizer and first Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Community Affairs File

Churches (Meth.) Allen Chapel Meth.

T APR 28 1977

Allen Chapel Gets Site Designation

(Churches (Meth.) – Allen Chapel)

Community Affairs File

Allen Chapel, an historic church located on south Third Street in Terre Haute is one of a dozen Indiana sites selected to share in nearly $170,000 in federal grants.

Allen Chapel has qualified for $5,000.

The Department of Natural Resources said today the state landmarks which were awarded the federal grants all are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Director Joseph D. Cloud said $30,000 was awarded for a survey and planning for the Culbertson Mansion State Memorial at New Albany and $30,163 for a survey and planning for the newly acquired Governor Hendricks Headquarters which will become a part of the State Memorial complex at Corydon.

Other grants included:

Old Lake County Courthouse, Crown Point, $30,000; Old Vanderburgh County Courthouse, Evansville, $15,000; Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, $17,000; Schroeder Saddle Tree Factory, Madison, $7,000; Beiger House, Mishawaka, $15,000; Tippecanoe Place, South Bend, $15,000; The Athenaeum, Indianapolis, $15,284; French Town Lot, Vincennes, $5,000; Moses Fowler House, Lafayette, $5,000.

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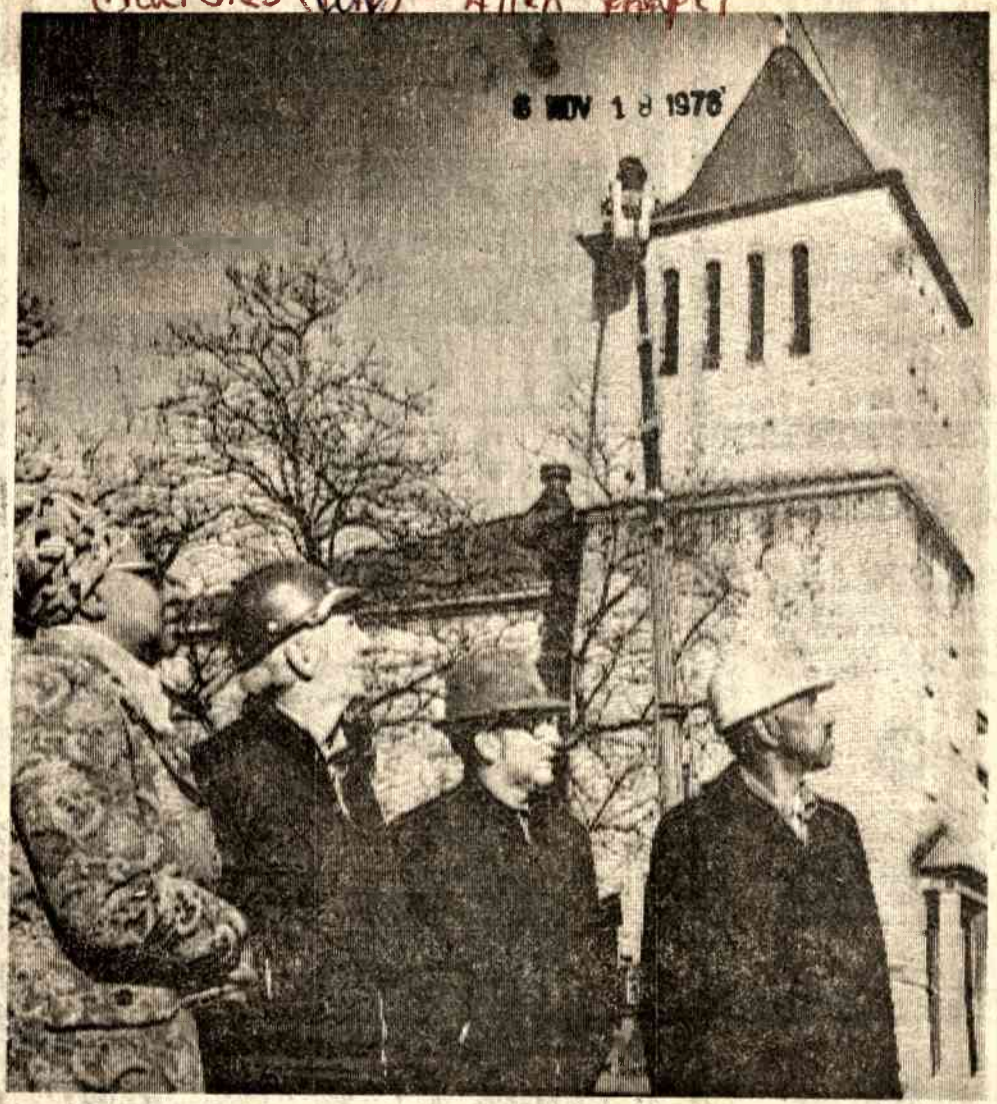
Allen Chapel Meth.

Churches (TH) - Allen Chapel

6 NOV 18 1976



ALLEN CHAPEL RESTORATION BEGINS - Work on the restoration and repair of Allen Chapel on S 3rd St started Wednesday. Now a Historical Landmark, the Chapel is used regularly. On hand for start of the project were Mrs. Audrey Graham, chairman of the restoration committee, Jack Ennis, Guarantee Roofing Co., William Sanquenetti of Shelton Hannig Associates, architect-engineers, and Glenn Graham, also a member of the committee. The committee is making every effort to match a $2500 matching grant from the American Bicentennial Commission, and are accepting contributions. (Photo by Kadel).

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Allen Chapel Placed On Historic Site List

S SEP 17 1975 Community Affairs File

Churches (T. H.)

S SEP 17 1975

The Allen Chapel, Third and Crawford Streets, has been added to the National Register of Historic Places of the National Park Service, according to an announcement from the office of Congressman John Myers.

Being included in the register makes the Chapel eligible for federal funds for the purpose of restoration.

Mrs. Audrey Acton Graham a member of the congregation submitted the request nd application on behalf of the Chape' in November, 1974. The Chapel was established 137 years ago, and affiliated with the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Allen Chapel is the oldest black church in Terre Haute, and was also the first black school. Parents paid 25-cents per week per pupil, and a black teacher instructed those attending. The first pastor, Rev William Paul Quinn, later became a bishop and held his first meeting in the Chapel.

The first black public school teacher in Terre Haute was a member of the Chapel, as was the first black high school graduate. The first black to be elected a U.S. Senator was a former pastor of the Chapel. Hiram Revels became a senator from Mississippi during the immediate post-Civil War era.

Howard Wooden, former director of the Swope Art Gallery, made an inspection of the church, and made an architectural appraisal submitted with the application.

Total cost of the projected repairs, renovations and redecoration has been estimated at $40,000.

Financial aid may now be sought for the preservation of the building, either through the National Endowment for the Arts or through the National Endowment for the Humanities. The application for such funds is through the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior.

Community Affairs File

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Allen Chapel Meth.

Allen Chapel Requests Historic Site Listing

Churches (All)

S NOV 25 1974

By GLADYS SELTZER
Star Staff Writer

Board of trustees of the Allen Chapel at Third and Crawford Streets, the oldest black church in Terre Haute, has requested the Chapel be listed in the National Register of Historic Places of the National Park Service as one step in the effort to restore the edifice to its former state.

Mrs. Audrey Acton Graham, a member of the congregation, earlier this month submitted the request and application on behalf of the board of the Chapel, founded 137 years ago and affiliated with the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The approaching national bicentenial celebration in 1976 has added impetus to the restoration project.

If the church is listed in the Register, the board may then seek financial aid for the preservation of the building through the National Parks Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior. Such funding could come from the National Endowment for the Arts or from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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At the request of Mrs. Graham, Howard Wooden, director of the Swope Art Gallery, inspected the church and made an architectural appraisal to be used in connection with the application, action on which may not be forthcoming for at least three to six months.

Mrs. Graham has compiled a detailed history of the church which she provided to The Star.

She noted that Allen Chapel "has a rich and significant background, historically, architecturally and culturally." The Chapel, organized informally in 1837, is a member of the oldest black ecclesiastical organization in the United States. This organization was founded in Philadelphia by Richard Allen, the first Bishop. He was born in 1760 and died in 1831.

Allen Chapel was organized formally in 1839. The five members met in a frame, double house near First and Sheets Streets. Sheets later became Crawford Street. The Rev. William Paul Quinn was the pastor; he later became a bishop and held his first official meeting in Allen Chapel.

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The church was moved in 1870 from First and Crawford Streets to Third and Crawford Streets and was built by a George Haslet or Hasslette. Mrs. Graham found the name spelled both ways in the records. The church was damaged very heavily in 1913 during a tornado and was

See AME CHURCH
On Page 3, Column 3

Community Affairs File
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AME Church

Continued From Page 1

designed in its present form by J. W. Hensen, architect.

"There have been many 'firsts' in education connected with Allen Chapel," Mrs. Graham noted in her history.

The Chapel housed the first school in Terre Haute for black people. Parents paid 25 cents per week per pupil. The first black public school teacher was a member and the first black high school graduate also was a member.

The first black in the United States to enter the field of oceanography is presently a member of the Chapel and is the Grahams' daughter, Rhea, a 1974 graduate in geology from Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, Pa. Rhea is now a research assistant in the School of Oceanography at Oregon State University at Corvallis, and working on her doctorate.

The Grahams' son, Glenn Acton Graham, is a sophomore in mechanical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Mass. He received a certificate of achievement and a four-year Shell Achievement Scholarship for college through high performance in the National Achievement Scholarship Program as administered by the National Merit Scholarship Commission for black students.

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Allen Chapel members have always been active in local welfare projects, Mrs. Graham pointed out. The Chapel was a stop on the Underground Railroad during the Civil War era and later it housed immigrants from the Carolinas in the church basement until they could find proper shelter in Terre Haute. Frederick Douglas spoke at the Chapel in 1868.

The first black to be elected a U.S. Senator was a former pastor, Hiram Revels. He became a senator from Mssissippi after he left Terre Haute and was also the first president of Alcorn College in Mississippi during the immediate post-Civil War period.

Moving forward in history, the Chapel was designated during World War II as an air raid shelter.

The bell in the present church dates to 1819 and the first Vigo County courthouse because it was the bell placed in the first courthouse, according to Mrs. Graham's research.

The Chapel pipe organ is the tracker action variety and the only one of that kind remaining in Terre Haute. Originally, the organ was pumped by hand and later electrified. The organ will be overhauled by William Westerman, a Commercial Solvents employe who repairs organs as a hobby.

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In his appraisal of the Chapel, Wooden pointed out that when it was moved in 1870 to its present location the building was designed in a Lombard Italienate manner. During the 1913 tornado lightning struck the church and caused fire and irreparable damage.

As a result, a complete rebuilding on the original foundations was undertaken and although the general plan was retained, the style was clearly altered." Hensen turned to a "free version of the then popular Gothic idiom, introducing two wide Tudor windows, one on the south side and one on the east facade," Wood denoted.

Both windows contain wooden tracery with stained glass and a number of smaller rectangular stained glass windows with geometric patterns, stylized floral motifs and dedicatory memorial plaques.

The main tower stands on a heavy stone pylon base and four closely grouped an dround headed slit windows appear in each face of the upper register of the tower, an arrangement somewhat similar to that of the original building.

The interior of the church contains an apse and altar on the north wall and a balcony along the other three walls. Sheet metal of a type used commonly in the late 19th and early 20th century architecture in this seen has been applied to the ceiling and decored with impressed classical decorative motifs.

The church is typical of early 20th century architecture in thi country an dshows the Gothic influence at that time. It is important in architectural history and a "significantly important monument in the life of Terre Haute," according to the appraisal.

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Total cost of the projected repairs, renovations and redecoration has been estimated at $40,000 and is therefore "a much bigger task than it would be otherwise" because of the small membership of the congregation, Mrs. Graham pointed out.

She said the congregation last winter replaced the coal stoker with a gas furnace. Then the roof began to leak badly and this proved to be too great a financial undertaking for the congregation, which then appealed for help.

"They were fortunate to receive invaluable assistance from several sources," Mrs. Graham explained, "including organized labor, especially the Carpenters and Operating Engineers, Shelton Hannig and Associates, Inc., the Swope Gallery, Guarantee Roofing and, others."

She said that the Carpenters' Union class at Indiana Vocational and Technical College as well as pressmen and laborers from the union itself have begun repairs on the roof.

"The next thing is tuck pointing of the bricks and window repair," Mrs. Graham noted. "This will involve installing plexiglass to protect the stained glass and remodeling the window wells. Then work will begin on inside rehabilitation. Water from the roof has already damaged some of the plaster."

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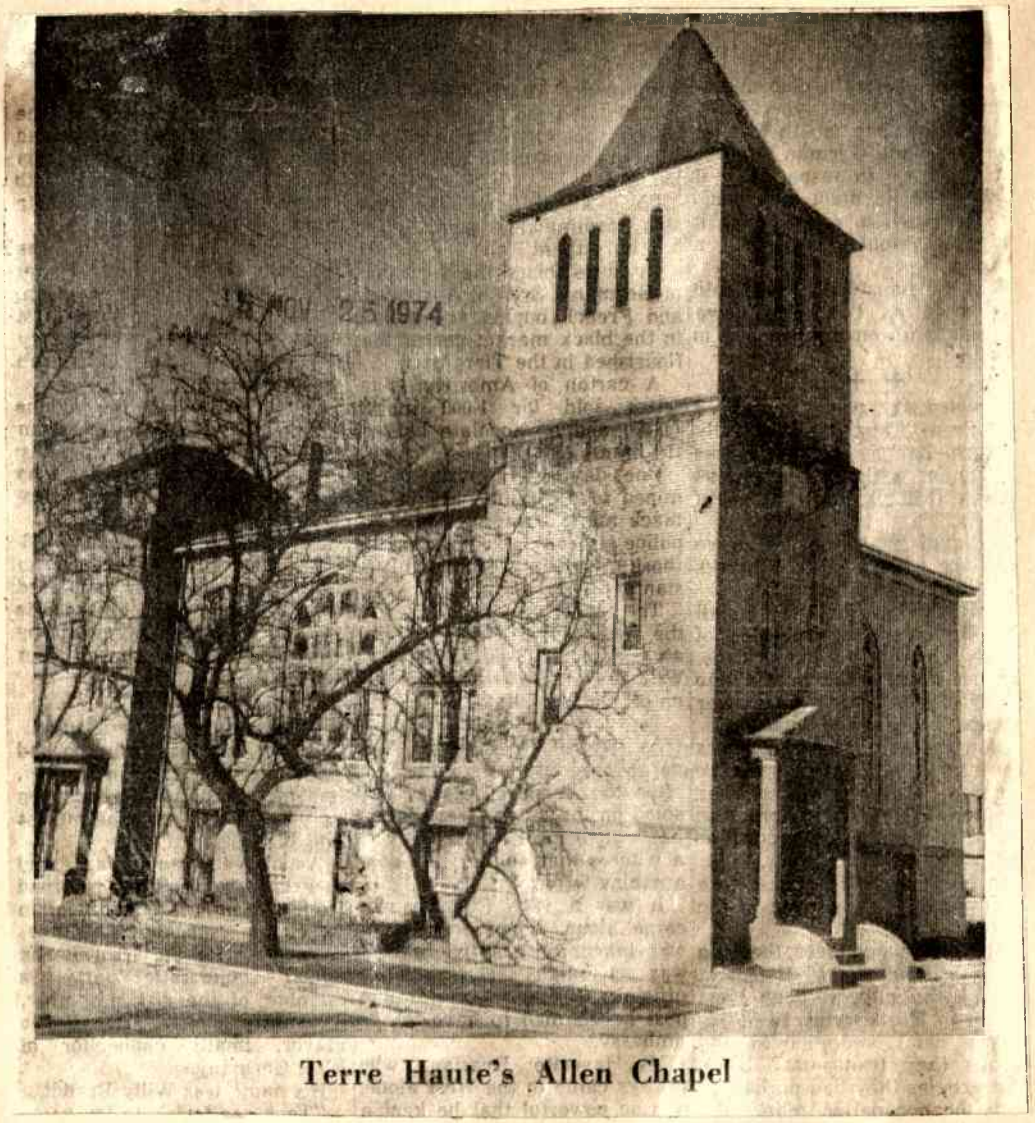
She said anyone wishing to make a contribution to the repair of the building may send it to James C. Rutledge, 2154 8th Ave. He is a member of the board of trustees. Anyone interested in further information about the project may call him at 232-5455.

Mrs. Graham was born near Merom, and she and her husband lives on a farm on the Merom bluffs overlooking the Wabash River. She received her undergraduate degree from Indiana State University and also did some graduate work there. Mrs. Graham has taught mathematics in the Evansville and Venice, Ill., public schools.

Her husband, Glenn, is a civilian employe in the industrial program at the U.S. Penitentiary south of the city and attended ISU.

The Grahams have been members of the Allen Chapel for the past six years. Graham is president of the board of trustees and Mrs. Graham teaches a Sunday school class.

Calling the rehabilitation a "big job" for the congregation, Mrs. Graham said it is "not impossible" and the 43 members of Allen Chapel hope to have it completely restored when the nation observes its bicentennial celebration in 1976.



Terre Haute's Allen Chapel

Allen Chapel Methodist

T JUN 2 1975

Churches (T.H.)

VISITORS TOUR ALLEN CHAPEL—Mr. and Mrs. William Gillel (at right) were among the many visitors to the Banks-of-the-Wabash Festival who toured the Allen Chapel on South Third Street Sunday. Glenn Graham, president of the restoration committee for the church, points out some of the work that has been done on the building. The chapel is one of the oldest Negro churches in the community. The Sunday open house at the structure also featured a flower show sponsored by the Sullivan County Garden Club. | House of Photography Photo.

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Churches (Terre Haute) WV Methodist

THE TRIBUNE

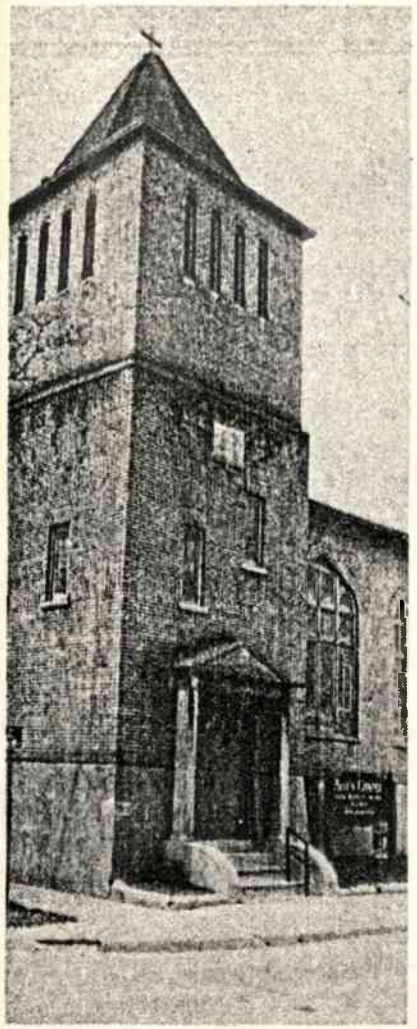
T MAY 9 1982

Allen Chapel celebrating 145th year this week

Community Affairs File

Historic Buildings

Community Affairs File



ALLEN CHAPEL
Features Tudor tower

By LIZ CIANCONE
Tribune-Star Staff Writer

One of Terre Haute's oldest church congregations will observe its 145th anniversary with a week-long program of special services beginning Monday.

Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church, 3rd and Crawford streets, was founded in 1837 by Willian Paul Quinn who later became a bishop of the denomination. The church was named to honor the memory of Richard Allen, an early black evangelist.

Other black congregations will help with the celebration. Each has been put in charge of an evening service during the week. Elder Essie Cheeks and the congregation of Cheeks Temple Church of God in Christ are in charge of Monday's service.

Scheduled for the balance of the week: the Rev. Cleytus Malone, Second Baptist Church; The Rev. J.E. Barksdale, Shiloh Baptist Church; the Rev. Kenneth Ladd, St. John's Baptist Church; the Rev. Ronald W. Jones, Spruce Street A.M.E. Church; and the Rev. E. Harper, St. Paul Baptist Church. Services begin at 7:30 p.m. each evening.

For the 11 a.m. service next Sunday, Dr. Henderson Davis, Indianapolis, one of the denomination's general officers, will occupy the pulpit.

The anniversary also is planned as a fund-raising occasion. Members of the congregation will be asked to make an anniversary donation. And, according to Mrs. Geraldine Bradford, co-chairman of the planning committee, public donations also would be welcome. All funds raised will be devoted to the renovation of the building.

The present church is not the original building. Originally Allen Chapel worshippers met in a small frame building located on South First Street—near Crawford. Later, in 1870, a building was erected on the present site at the corner of Third and Crawford streets.

That building was designed in a Lombard Italienate style and was a structure of some architectural distinction. But lightning struck the church during the tornado of 1913 and a resulting fire did irreparable damage.

The building was—literally—recreated from the ashes, although the present structure includes considerable alteration of the orignal's architectural style. The essential plan was retained, but the then-popular Gothic motif resulted in the addition of two wide Tudor windows—one on the south side and the other on the east facade.

In 1974, the church submitted a request and an application for inclusion of the Chapel in the National Register of Historic Places—a publication of the National Park Service. The church was included in the Register and has received some federal renovation funds.

Allen Chapel has always been in the forefront of local welfare projects. During the Civil War era, the Chapel was a stop on the Underground Railroad. Later it housed immigrants from the Carolinas in the church basement until they could find other proper shelter in Terre Haute.

In 1868 Frederick Douglass, noted black author, editor, orator and U.S. counsel general to Haiti, spoke at the Chapel.

The first black to be elected to the U.S. Senate was a former pastor of Allen Chapel. Hiram Revels was elected Senator from Mississippi after leaving Terre Haute. He also was the first president of Alcorn College in Mississippi during the immediate post-Civil War period.

The present church bell dates to 1819. It was the bell placed in the first Vigo County Courthouse. The Chapel pipe organ also is unique to the community. It's the only tracker-action instrument remaining locally, although it has been modified from the original hand-pump to electric power.

In addition to Mrs. Bradford and cochairman Thelma Benton, other menbers of the Anniversary Rally comnittee are Leonard Handley, Isabelle Martin and Thomas Waldon. The Rev. David Perry is the congregation's minister.

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